FROM THE BOOKSHELF NO. 15[illegible] SEPTEMBER 21, 1976
GENE KERN

A MAN CALLED INTREPID BY WILLIAM STEPHENSON

ANNCR: THE VOICE OF AMERICA BRINGS YOU ANOTHER IN THE WEEKLY SERIES...FROM THE BOOKSHELF...IN WHICH WE REPORT ON BOOKS AMERICANS ARE READING. TODAY...A MAN CALLED INTREPID, SUBTITLED THE SECRET WAR, BY WILLIAM STEPHENSON, PUBLISHED BY HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH. HERE IS BOOK EDITOR --------WITH GENE KERN'S REPORT.

EDITOR: WINSTON CHURCHILL, IN A LETTER TO SIR WILLIAM STEPHENSON, HERO OF A MAN CALLED INTREPID, WROTE:

VOICE: "IN THE HIGH RANGES OF SECRET SERVICE WORK, THE ACTUAL FACTS IN MANY CASES WERE IN EVERY RESPECT EQUAL TO THE MOST FANTASTIC INVENTIONS OF ROMANCE AND MELODRAMA. TANGLE WITHIN TANGLE, PLOT AND COUNTER-PLOT, RUSE AND TREACHERY, CROSS AND DOUBLE-CROSS, TRUE AGENT, FALSE AGENT, DOUBLE AGENT, GOLD AND STEEL, THE BOMB, THE DAGGER AND THE FIRING PARTY, WERE INTERWOVEN IN MANY A TEXTURE SO INTRICATE AS TO BE INCREDIBLE AND YET TRUE."

EDITOR: CHURCHILL WOULD KNOW. HE WAS HIMSELF DEEPLY INVOLVED IN "THE SECRET WAR" LONG BEFORE HE BECAME BRITISH PRIME MINISTER. AS FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY, IT WAS CHURCHILL WHO GAVE STEPHENSON THE CODE NAME "INTREPID" WHEN HE MADE STEPHENSON THE SECRET INTELLIGENCE AMBASSADOR TO PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT. ROOSEVELT, IN TURN, ON HIS OWN, WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF CONGRESS, SUPPORTED THE SECRET WAR AGAINST HITLER'S

EDITOR: (CONT) PLANS FOR WORLD DOMINATION FOR TWO YEARS WHILE THE UNITED STATES WAS OFFICIALLY AT PEACE. WELL AWARE OF THE POLITICAL RISK, EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPEACHMENT IF HIS ROLE WAS REVEALED ROOSEVELT IS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD STEPHENSON, "I'M YOUR BIGGEST UNDERCOVER AGENT." ROOSEVELT'S COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHURCHILL, SIGNED POTUS (PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.) TO "NAVAL PERSON" (CLASSIC BRITISH UNDERSTATEMENT) ARE BUT ONE OF MANY FASCINATING ELEMENTS IN THIS CHRONICLE OF ANGLO-AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN WORLD WAR TWO BY AUTHOR WILLIAM STEPHENSON, COLLEAGUE BUT NO KIN TO HIS NAMESAKE, THE MAN CALLED INTREPID.

SIR WILLIAM, NOW RETIRED BUT STILL FOLLOWING CURRENT AFFAIRS AT EIGHTY YEARS OF AGE, WAS ALSO KNOWN AS "THE QUIET CANADIAN." THAT PROPERLY DESCRIBED HIS NATIONALITY AND DEMEANOR, BUT NOT HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. EVEN BEFORE HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE COMBINED BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND HEADED THE CLANDESTINE WAR AGAINST HITLER, STEPHENSON'S CAREER WAS OUTSTANDING: WORLD WAR ONE FLYING ACE, AMATEUR LIGHTWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION, RADIO AND TELEVISION PIONEER AND INVENTOR AND MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST. IN THE LATTER CAPACITY, HE WITNESSED THE PRE-WAR NAZI BOOK-BURNINGS, THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS, AND -- JUST BEFORE THE GERMAN MARCH INTO AUSTRIA -- LEARNED OF HITLER'S SECRET BRIEFING OF THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND FOR THE CONQUEST OF EUROPE. WHEN BRITISH PRIME MINISTER NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN SIGNED THE MUNICH AGREEMENT DECLARING "PEACE IN OUR TIME,"

EDITOR: (CONT) STEPHENSON BECAME CONVINCED THAT THE NAZI PHILOSOPHY AND WAR POTENTIAL THREATENED THE VERY SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRATIC CIVILIZATION.

BRITISH SECURITY COORDINATION, OR BSC, AS IT WAS KNOWN TO THE INITIATED, TOOK ROOT FIRST IN A VICTORIAN MANSION AT BLETCHLEY PARK, ABOUT SIXTY MILES FROM LONDON. HERE WAS HOUSED "THE MOST CLOSELY GUARDED MYSTERY IN BRITAIN," THE "HEYDRICH ENIGMA." THIS WAS A MODEL OF THE GERMAN VARIABLE CODING MACHINE THAT WAS SMUGGLED OUT OF WARSAW BY POLISH SECRET AGENTS A WEEK BEFORE THE NAZI INVASION OF POLAND AND BRITISH DECLARATION OF WAR. THANKS TO BLETCHLEY'S CODEBREAKING TRIUMPHS, CHURCHILL AND ROSEVELT HAD ADVANCE INFORMATION OF MOST OF HITLER'S BLITZKRIEGS, AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON CRITICAL INTELLIGENCE LEAKS AND EVEN TARGETS FOR LUFTWAFFE TERROR RAIDS. THIS MADE FOR AN AWESOME DILEMMA: WHETHER TO WARN INTENDED VICTIMS AND TAKE OBVIOUS COUNTER-MEASURES AT THE RISK OF GIVING AWAY THE INVALUABLE ENIGMA DECODING SECRET. A TRAGIC EXAMPLE OF THE PRICE OF SECRECY WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF COVENTRY. THE BRITISH KNEW OF THE COMING TERROR BOMBING. BUT THEY DECIDED THEIR DELODING SECRET HAD TO BE PROTECTED.

LATER, BUT WELL BEFORE THE U.S. ENTERED THE WAR, STEPHENSON WORKED OUT OF A BUILDING IN THE ROCKEFELLER CENTER COMPLEX IN NEW YORK, WITH THOUSANDS OF INCONSPICUOUS ASSISTANTS. BSC ALSO STATIONED TWELVE HUNDRED BRITISH EXPERTS IN BERMUDA, WHICH WAS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED

EDITOR: (CONT) "BLETCHLEY-IN-THE-TROPICS." AND IN CLOSELY GUARDED ACRES OF CANADIAN FARMLAND, "INTREPID" SET UP "CAMP X," HEADQUARTERS FOR AGGRESSIVE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS. IN THE AUTHOR'S WORDS:

VOICE: "HERE AGENTS TRAINED, GUERRILLA DEVICES WERE TESTED, AND HOLLYWOOD-STYLE DUMMY BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED IN IMITATION OF IMPORTANT NAZI HIDE-OUTS TO BE INVADED BY THE PARACHUTIST COLLECTORS OF NAZI VERMIN".

EDITOR: "A MAN CALLED INTREPID" DETAILS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE EFFORT, ABETTED BY THE HEROIC UNDERGROUND NETWORK IN EAST AND WEST EUROPE. "THE PEOPLE'S WARS BEGAN IN YUGOSLAVIA," "INTREPID" EXPLAINS, WHERE "TITO'S COMMUNIST ARMIES FOUGHT GUERRILLA CAMPAIGNS AND HUMILIATED..THE MASSIVE HUN SOLDIERY." THIS FOLLOWED CLOSELY ON THE MISSION OF "INTREPID'S" AMERICAN COUNTERPART, BILL DONOVAN, TO THE BALKANS TO ENCOURAGE BULGARIAN AND YUGOSLAV RESISTANCE IN ORDER TO DELAY HITLER'S INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION. CHURCHILL, WHO WAS NOT GIVEN TO UNDERSTATEMENT CALLED THIS DIVERSION "THE SINGLE OUTSTANDING INTELLIGENCE COUP OF ANY WAR."

BSC'S ACTIVITIES WERE MANIFOLD, ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IMPRESSIVE. ONE OBVIOUS POINT OF CONCENTRATION WAS THE GERMAN EFFORT TO BE FIRST WITH THE ATOM BOMB. BUT "OPERATION SWALLOW" SABOTAGED THE PRODUCTIVE NORSK HYDRO HEAVY WATER PLANT IN OCCUPIED NORWAY. AND BSC CONCEIVED AND EXECUTED THE QUITE INCREDIBLE EXTRACTION,

EDITOR: (CONT) FROM RIGHT UNDER THE GESTAPO'S NOSE, OF THE DANISH SCIENTIST, NIELS BOHR, WHO FIRST SPLIT THE URANIUM ATOM. THAT LONG AND COMPLICATED OPERATION ENDS DRAMATICALLY, IN THE AUTHOR'S WORDS:

VOICE: "THUS, A FEW DAYS AFTER HIS FIFTY-EIGHTH BIRTHDAY, ON OCTOBER 7, 1943, PROFESSOR NIELS BOHR, ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS, WAS FITTED INTO A KIND OF SNOWSUIT STILL WARM FROM THE BODY OF A YOUNG WOMAN AGENT, WAS HELMETED, MASKED, AND STRAPPED INTO THE BOMB BAY BETWEEN TWO MASSIVE ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINES HANGING FROM A PLYWOOD AIR FRAME, TO BEGIN THE LONG JOURNEY TO THE BIRTH OF THE ATOMIC AGE."

EDITOR: BOHR ALMOST DIED FROM LACK OF OXYGEN BEFOFE HE WAS LANDED SAFELY IN ENGLAND AND LATER AIRLIFTED, WITH HIS SON, TO JOIN THE MANHATTAN PROJECT IN THE UNITED STATES.

IT WAS AT CAMP X THAT VOLUNTEERS FROM THE CZECH RESISTANCE ARMY PREPARED THE ASSASSINATION OF REINHARD HEYDRICH, HITLER'S CHIEF EXECUTIONER, JUSTIFIABLY KNOWN AS "THE BUTCHER OF PRAGUE," WHO ALSO LENT HIS NAME TO THE ENIGMA CODING MACHINE. BUT THESE SECRET-WAR VICTORIES DID NOT COME CHEAPLY. HEYDRICH'S EXECUTIONERS WERE CAUGHT AND KILLED BY THE SS, AND FOR WEEKS AFTER THE ATTACK ONE HUNDRED CZECH HOSTAGES WERE SHOT EACH EVENING. THE VILLAGE OF LIDICE, INTO WHICH THE ASSASSINS HAD BEEN PARACHUTED, WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND BY FLAMETHROWERS AFTER ITS INHABITANTS

EDITOR: (CONT)

WERE EXTERMINATED. AS FOR THE FRENCH UNDERGROUND IN THE WORDS OF INTREPID:

VOICE: "AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH SECRET ARMY WERE EXECUTED. OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND DEPORTED TO DEATH CAMPS, SOME FORTY THOUSAND RETURNED IN VARIOUS STAGES OF EMACIATION... THESE APPALLING LOSSES WERE SUFFERED IN DARKNESS, TO BECOME KNOWN ONLY AFTER THE WAR."

EDITOR: "A MAN CALLED INTREPID" IS A RICH COLLECTION OF WARTIME STORIES, DRAMATIC AND MELODRAMATIC. IT SUFFERS A BIT FROM INCONSISTENT CHRONOLOGY AND ORGANIZATION AND A TENDENCY TO EXAGGERATION. BUT IT REMAINS NEVERTHELESS AN ESSENTIALLY AUTHENTIC HISTORY OF THE MAJOR CRISIS OF OUR TIME, AND INCIDENTLY A MOST EXCITING ADVENTURE STORY REASONS ENOUGH TO HAVE KEPT IT HIGH ON THE BEST-SELLER LIST HERE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR NEARLY SIX MONTHS. AND PROOF AGAIN THAT IN "THE SECRET WAR" TRUTH WAS INDEED STRANGER THAN FICTION.

ANNCR: YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO A REPORT ON A MAN CALLED INTREPID" BY WILLIAM STEPHENSON. LISTEN NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME) TO ANOTHER REPORT ON ANOTHER BOOK AMERICANS ARE CHOOSING...FROM THE BOOKSHELF.

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